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## Los Angeles Air Force Base

### Media Release



**SPACE SYSTEMS COMMAND**  
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### Space Force conducts successful demonstration launch from Kodiak, Alaska on Astra's Rocket 3

**LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.** – The United States Space Force's Space Systems Command (SSC) and industry partner Astra successfully launched the STP-27AD2 mission from Kodiak, Alaska, at 9:16 p.m. local time Friday, November 19, 2021.

The STP-27AD2 mission was a DoD demonstration launch, carrying a mass-simulator to a 500 km orbit. This launch demonstrates Astra's ability to deliver payloads to specified orbits, and serves as a risk reduction effort for future launch missions. The successful launch is an example of how the USSF is using innovative strategies to work with industry partners in accelerating the timeline between idea and launch.

"Congratulations to the STP team and our industry partner on today's successful launch," said Col. Brian Denaro, program executive officer for Space Development and director of SSC's Space Development Corps which manages the DoD Space Test Program. "With this and our other Rapid Agile Launch Initiative launches, the STP team continues to demonstrate how agile access to space enables us to quickly and affordably prove out new technology, accelerating the development of our future, more resilient, space architecture to outpace current and future space threats."

The DoD Space Test Program (STP), in partnership with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), procured this mission as part of the Rapid Agile Launch Initiative. This initiative leverages DIU's Commercial Solutions Opening process to competitively and rapidly award DoD launch service agreements to non-traditional, venture-class launch service providers.

"I'm thrilled with today's successful launch," said Col. Carlos A. Quiñones, Director of the DoD Space Test Program. "Today, SSC and the Space Test Program took another big step toward Congress' goal of procuring and delivering a new DoD launch capabilities using commercial practices. This launch

exemplifies SSC's commitment to expanding partnerships with innovative companies and accelerating the delivery of critical future capabilities to ensure our Nation maintains a strategic advantage in space."

The DoD Space Test Program, located at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, focuses on experimental demonstrations of new capabilities and expedient space access solutions for research and development experiments that will enhance current operational capabilities, enable future military space systems, and reduce risk for future operational missions.

Space Systems Command is a USSF field command and is responsible for developing and acquiring lethal and resilient space capabilities for warfighters by rapidly identifying, prototyping, fielding and sustaining innovative, space-based solutions to meet the demands of the National Defense Strategy. SSC's functions include developmental testing, production, launch, on-orbit checkout and maintenance of USSF space systems, as well as oversight of USSF science and technology activities.

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Media representatives can submit questions for response regarding this topic by sending an e-mail to [sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil](mailto:sscpa.media@spaceforce.mil)

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